

CONTENTS

	Page
List of Tables	x
List of Figures	xii
List of Appendices	xv
List of Abbreviations	xvii
Acknowledgements	xix
ABSTRACT	xxi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE	6
2.1 WATER SCARCITY	6
2.2 GERMINATION AND VEGETATIVE STAGE, RELATIONSHIP TO DROUGHT TOLERANCE	6
2.3 PROLINE CONTENT, RELATIONSHIP TO DROUGHT TOLERANCE	7
2.4 SUGAR CONTENT, RELATIONSHIP TO DROUGHT TOLERANCE	8
2.5 PROTEIN CONTENT, RELATIONSHIP TO DROUGHT TOLERANCE	8
2.6 GAS EXCHANGE PARAMETERS AND DROUGHT STRESS	9
2.7 RELATIVE WATER CONTENT AND DROUGHT STRESS	9
2.8 LEAF WATER POTENTIAL AND OSMOTIC POTENTIAL IN RELATION TO DROUGHT	10
2.9 EPICUTICULAR WAX, RELATIONSHIP TO DROUGHT TOLERANCE	10
2.10 OSMOTIC ADJUSTMENT, A MECHANISM OF DROUGHT TOLERANCE	11

2.11	IMPROVING DROUGHT TOLERANCE	12
2.12	DROUGHT TOLERANCE AND ASSOCIATED GENES	14
3	MATERIALS AND METHODS	22
3.1	EVALUATION OF WHEAT GENOTYPES AT GERMINATION AND EARLY SEEDLING STAGE	22
3.1.1	Germination Percentage	23
3.1.2	Speed of Germination	23
3.1.3	Shoot Length	24
3.1.4	Root Length	24
3.1.5	Coleoptile Length	24
3.1.6	Shoot and Root Biomass	24
3.1.7	Coefficient of Relative Inhibition	25
3.1.8	Statistical Analysis	25
3.2	EVALUATION OF WHEAT CULTIVARS ON BIOCHEMICAL BASIS	25
3.2.1	Proline Content	26
3.2.2	Total Soluble Sugar Content	27
3.2.3	Chlorophyll Content	27
3.2.4	Total Soluble Protein Content	28
3.2.5	Free Amino Acid Content	28
3.2.6	Shoot and Root Biomass	29
3.2.7	Statistical Analysis	29
3.3	EVALUATION OF WHEAT CULTIVARS ON PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS	29
3.3.1	Photosynthesis Rate	30
3.3.2	Stomatal Conductance	30
3.3.3	Transpiration Rate	30
3.3.4	Leaf Osmotic Potential	31
3.3.5	Leaf Water Potential	31
3.3.6	Epicuticular Wax Content	31

3.3.7	Relative Water Content	32
3.3.8	Statistical Analysis	32
3.4	EVALUATION OF WHEAT CULTIVARS ON MOLECULAR BASIS	32
3.4.1	Primer Design	33
3.4.2	Primer Used in RT-PCR	33
3.4.3	RNA Extraction	36
3.4.4	First-Strand cDNA Synthesis Using Superscript II RT	37
3.4.5	Polymerase Chain Reaction	38
3.4.6	Agrose Gel Electrophoresis	39
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	40
4.1	EVALUATION OF WHEAT GENOTYPES AT GERMINATION AND EARLY SEEDLING STAGE	40
4.1.1	Germination Percentage	40
4.1.2	Speed of Germination	42
4.1.3	Shoot Length	44
4.1.4	Root Length	46
4.1.5	Coleoptile Length	49
4.1.6	Shoot and Root Biomass	51
4.1.7	Coefficient of Relative Inhibition	58
4.2	EVALUATION OF WHEAT CULTIVARS ON BIOCHEMICAL BASIS	61
4.2.1	Proline Content	61
4.2.2	Total Soluble Sugar Content	63
4.2.3	Chlorophyll Content	66
4.2.4	Total Soluble Protein Content	72
4.2.5	Free Amino Acid Content	75
4.2.6	Shoot and Root Biomass	77
4.3	EVALUATION OF WHEAT CULTIVARS ON PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS	86

4.3.1	Photosynthesis Rate	86
4.3.2	Stomatal Conductance	88
4.3.3	Transpiration Rate	91
4.3.4	Leaf Osmotic Potential	93
4.3.5	Leaf Water Potential	96
4.3.6	Epicuticular Wax Content	98
4.3.7	Relative Water Content	100
4.4	EVALUATION OF WHEAT CULTIVARS ON MOLECULAR BASIS	104
4.4.1	<i>DHN</i> Gene Expression	104
	SUMMARY	110
	LITERATURE CITED	115
	APPENDICES	146